

The Groundplane

SBARA—The South Bay Amateur Radio Association KU6S

April 2015
Volume 15, Issue 4



ARRL Member
Club Since 1974



SBARA Presidents Message April 2015

April is upon us...no foolin! Did you get a joke or prank pulled on you on April 1st (April Fool's Day)? There once was a time when I worked at a major software company where I had the time and opportunity to pull off some pretty extensive pranks. They ranged from rattle snake eggs in an envelope (paper clip wound up with a rubber band to completely clearing someone's cube out and adding a welcome sign for a fictitious new hire to building an elaborate shelving system in a manager's office and loading it with old computer hardware from my server room. I papered the interior hall windows of his office so he couldn't see in until he opened the door. I had a hidden camera in a plant to capture his approach to the office and him opening the door to peek in. As he opened the door, you could hear the words, "Wilson...you're dead meat!" Since I'm working from home mostly these days, with little free time, I just don't have the opportunity anymore. Those were good times...and I'm living to tell about them!

I'm excited about the upcoming Radio in the Park on April 25th at Lake Elizabeth from 11am to 3pm. We will have stations for HF, VHF/UHF, and Satellite. **NOTE:** Umesh has already determined that there will be two satellite and two ISS (International Space Station) passes during this time! The idea, with this event, was to have some fun outdoors with our hobby and not wait until June for field day! I also plan to hide a transmitter for those who may want to learn more about direction finding or "t-hunting." I think this will be fun for the kids! If this event...our first...is successful, we will look toward the possibility of making it an annual event

or maybe even more frequently during the summer. We shall see. There's been talk about bringing in sandwiches, so please...come join us!

Lastly...a reminder about the **FFBC sponsored Primavera Bicycle Ride on Sunday, April 26th.**

It's a bicycle event starting and ending in Fremont. It has routes of 25, 40, 60, and 100 miles. Ham radio volunteers are needed to provide communications for a rest stop or with a SAG (support and gear) vehicle for AM, PM, or all day shifts. No bicycle experience is necessary. Contact Tony Flusche at ab6br@qsl.net for more information. [NOTE: The secret phrase for a free raffle ticket at the next SBARA meeting is "support & gear." Write this phrase down on a piece of paper and hand it to Ray at the raffle table for a free ticket. Limit one ticket per person.] Our very own Al Rendon (WT6K) will be assisting with net control duties. I will be covering Calaveras Rd. in the morning and Palomares Rd. in the afternoon as a one-man, top down, SAG vehicle, since I have both radio and bike rack as well as tools, tubes, pump, ice, water, etc. I always seem to bring a smile to the rider's faces. :-)



Please join us at our April meeting, Friday, April 10th for a presentation by Jon Miller (K6MM) on the Wake Atoll DXpedition and a short overview of his recent DXpedition to Navassa.

73!

Steve KG6HJU



Amateur Radio Support for 3 Running Events – 2015

I'm looking for radio operators to support three running events. Do you have a friend that likes to get out in the fresh air, licensed or not? This friend could help you with keeping track of the runner bib numbers. As always, I am looking for additional amateur radio operators to work these events. Feel free to spread the word about these events in the groups you belong to.

Ohlone 50k Wilderness Run. This event will be held on **Sunday, May 17**. The event starts at 0800 south of Ohlone College and ends at Lake Del Valle, south of Livermore. The radio part usually closes at 1630. We use the W6SRR repeater. An HT with an enhanced antenna and at least one extra battery is required for some locations. Some locations require mobile power and/or a gain antenna. The event website is www.ohlone50k.com.

Lake Chabot Trail Challenge Half Marathon & 5k. This event will be held on **Sunday, June 7**. The event starts at 0800 and is closed up by 1200. Communication is

over a simplex frequency. An HT with an enhanced antenna and extra battery is required. The event website is <http://www.cvtrackclub.com/trailchallenge.html>.

Skyline 50k. This event will be held on **Sunday, August 8**. The event starts at 0800 and officially closes at 1800. The radio part is usually finished by 1630. Communication is over a simplex channel. An HT with an enhanced antenna and extra battery is required for most locations. Some of the locations require mobile power and a gain antenna. The event website is <http://skyline50k.com>.

Contact me at n6ojj@arrl.net for more information about each event and more specific radio requirements.

David McBrayer, N6OJJ

Mark your calendar for the 2015 Electronics Flea Market!

This is a reminder that the Electronics Flea Market has been scheduled for 2015 at De Anza College. Our first market is scheduled for March 14th from 5am until Noon.

The season is scheduled for the second Saturday of each month March through September, 5AM until Noon. Each Market is sponsored by a different amateur radio organization and is operated as a fund-raiser for that organization.

Note that the Electronics Flea Market is intended for electronics goods and other things related to amateur radio. This should be the focus of vendors who attend the market.

More information and directions may be found at the Electronics Flea Market web site at <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>

www.electronicfleamarket.com/ These flea markets are organized by ASVARO (Association of Silicon Valley Radio Organizations <http://www.asvaro.org/>) as a fund raising activity for local amateur radio organizations.

Use the link at the bottom of this memo to subscribe or unsubscribe for this email list. This email list is exclusively for announcements and information about the Electronics Flea Market and information we deem to be of general interest to this on this list.

Electronics Flea Market Announcements mailing list

<http://mailman.svpal.org/mailman/listinfo/efm>

Wave of popularity

Don Keith

{Reprinted with permission of The American Legion Magazine, March, 2015. www.legion.org}

In a digital world, ham radio endures, as a hobby and means of emergency communication.

What comes to mind when you hear the term “ham radio”? Maybe, when you were a kid, it was the fellow with the tall tower in his backyard that was blamed for causing squiggly lines on neighborhood TV screens. Or the guy at work with antennas bristling from his car who spends his lunch hour eating a sandwich and talking on a radio. Or maybe you’ve read a news story about “ham” operators helping in the aftermath of a natural disaster. Whatever your impression of the hobby, you may have no idea how dynamic and fun ham radio is, or

just how crucial it can be when other forms of communication fail. And it’s a perfect fit – both nationally and at local posts – with many American Legion missions, including civil defense. Every time you send a text on your phone, watch a TV show or use Wi-Fi at a coffee shop, you use technology developed in part by early hams – an old railroad telegraphers’ term for “inexperienced operator” – experimenting with newly invented radio in their basements and attics. And throughout

amateur radio’s 100-year history, these cellar alchemists have helped create and refine innovations in the field. Meanwhile, others have helped save lives and ease human suffering during catastrophic events such as 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina.

Along the way, they’ve formed a tight-knit community that has a heck of a good time.

In the early 1900s, with radio in its infancy, its possibilities appealed to a group of early adopters. They took the work of scientists and pioneered the first practical uses of wireless technology.

Meanwhile, world governments saw the need to formalize regulation of this new communication medium to prevent on-air chaos. In the United States, the Federal Radio Commission was created for that purpose. Most regulatory agencies recognized the contributions of those early hams and saw them as a willing and valuable resource. They designated portions of the radio spectrum for amateurs

to continue to experiment and provide backup communications as a public service.

Fast forward a century, and the hobby is still as vibrant as ever. This surprises some people, who assume that smartphones, Facebook, online chat rooms and texting have made a pastime like ham radio obsolete. Yes,

communicating with others is the ultimate goal of amateur radio enthusiasts, and there are plenty of ways to do that these days. But there is so much more to the hobby than simply talking to another person.

It can be difficult to convey the attraction to others, but there is a certain magic in connecting with another person using a radio station that you put together yourself, possibly one you designed and built from scratch. There’s a thrill that comes from bouncing a signal off the atmosphere – maybe even off a satellite, the surface of the moon or the tail of a comet – using newly developed digital modes of communicating, and conversing with someone who shares that passion, whether he’s down the street or on the far side of the globe.

Amateur radio is not for everyone. But for those who are interested and want to join in, it can be an almost perfect avocation, offering opportunities for learning, experimenting or combining the pastime with other interests.

Campers, whether in RVs or tents, take radios with them for companionship and emergency situations when other means of communication are unavailable. Some hams hike to mountaintops or venture to remote islands with tiny, low-power transceivers and portable antennas, putting those locations on the air for others around the world to contact. Many use radio to control model aircraft, boats or robots, or as payloads in weather balloon launches. A wide range of special-interest groups meets regularly on the amateur radio bands in what are called “nets,” discussing such subjects as antique cars or gardening. There are nets, too, for veterans to connect on the air and talk about their experiences.

Those with technical flair learn, design, build and try out new ideas. Right now, satellites designed and built by amateurs are orbiting the earth and can be accessed by other hams using relatively simple gear. Computer technology is a big part of amateur radio today, and the latest advances in combining digital content with radio frequency waves put today’s hobbyists on the cutting edge just like their predecessors a century ago. Others pay homage to their forerunners by restoring and repairing antique radio gear and returning it to the airwaves. For many, amateur radio has been the gateway to careers in engineering, electronics and communications.

However, technical aptitude is not required to join the fun. The hobby offers plenty for those not electronically inclined. For example, many enjoy what they term “radiosport,” using their radios and the airwaves for spirited competition and contacting as many other stations as they can in a set period of time. “Fox hunting” – searching for a hidden transmitter – is a popular activity. Others work toward awards for contacting as many fellow hams as they can in countries around the world. Of course, many amateur radio enthusiasts simply enjoy having conversations with a group of friends or someone new each time they fire up their stations. You never know who you might encounter on the ham bands. That leisurely chat might be with a music or TV star, a member of Congress, the king of a European country, an ice fisherman on a lake in Manitoba, a Nobel Prize winner, a missionary on a South Pacific island, a group operating from an isolated chunk of glacier in the Antarctic or even an astronaut in outer space. Most crewmembers aboard the International Space Station are licensed hams and frequently converse with school groups and other individuals back on Earth.

READY TO SERVE

With all this fun, competition and camaraderie, it is important to note that amateur radio has a serious purpose, too. When the Federal Radio Commission – now the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) – created the amateur radio service, it made it clear why hams deserved vast slices of the radio spectrum. One, as mentioned, was to allow them to continue experimenting and contributing to the field. The other was to provide a pool of trained operators with working radio stations to assist in providing emergency communications. But have cellular technology, satellites and the like negated the need for amateur radio operators in emergencies? We only have to consider recent events – wildfires in the West, a volcanic eruption in

Japan, Superstorm Sandy in the Northeast, the terrorist bombing at the Boston Marathon – for examples of normal communication infrastructure becoming overwhelmed or failing completely. In each case, hams were called upon, and they were ready to serve. When Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast in 2005, the first structures to topple were cellphone towers. When tornadoes ripped through Alabama in 2011, hams were on the ground, first as trained “storm spotters” helping track the storms for the National Weather Service. Then they operated around the clock for weeks afterward, assisting relief operations. Japan, Superstorm Sandy in the Northeast, the terrorist

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HOW TO GET STARTED

A good first stop to learn more about amateur radio is the website of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) at www.arrl.org. ARRL publishes books, study guides and other materials to help beginners get started and gain the most from the hobby.

A license is a prerequisite, and that requires passing an examination. You only need a basic knowledge of radio theory, operating practices and FCC rules. Many study guides and online teaching programs are available. While the material requires some study, it is not daunting. Children younger than 10 have passed the test and received their licenses. At one time, would-be amateur radio licensees were also required to pass a Morse-code proficiency examination. That is no longer the case. Morse code is still used by ham radio operators alongside 21st-century modes of communication, but it is no longer necessary to know the dots and dashes to obtain a license.

The test is administered by volunteer examiners. The ARRL website can be used to find nearby amateur radio clubs and exam sessions. A Google search for "amateur radio club" plus your city or state can also be a good guide to locate active clubs or groups near you. Many clubs offer free or inexpensive license-exam preparation classes. When you receive your license – and your own unique radio call sign – clubs can also help you put together a station and get on the air, so that you can start helping in public service and emergency communications.

If there's already a club or a station at your American Legion post, the active amateurs there can tell you more about the hobby and how it can further the Legion's mission.

If you know a post member who is already a licensed ham, suggest that he or she contact The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) and join if not already a member. The club can offer ideas for how each post can participate, from conducting exam preparation classes to starting a ham radio station at the post for use by licensed Legionnaires.

The hobby of amateur radio continues to evolve, providing unique opportunities for education, experimentation, fellowship and public service. It fits well with other interests. It is also an enjoyable pastime that can be pursued no matter a person's age or health. Most of all, amateur radio is simply a lot of fun while offering the chance to give back to your community and country. That is why so many hams, particularly veterans, consider their hobby to be just about perfect.

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In Memory KD6ZR

Mr. Richard J. “Rick” Lutzinger, age 71, of Patterson, passed away Wednesday afternoon (12/24/14) at his residence following an extended illness.

Born May 24, 1943 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he was raised in Delray Beach, Florida. He was a Mechanical Design Engineer and had a successful career in Texas and the Silicon Valley, CA before retiring in Patterson in 2000. These careers included work in the medical equipment field, specifically with fetal heart monitor and anti-embolism pumps; and computer peripherals such as mice, headphones, and calculators. He was highly sought after by Fortune 500 companies, Texas Instruments, Atari, National Semiconductor, Logitech, Medasonics, and Lathrop Engineering.

A devoted licensed Amateur Radio Operator for 37 years, he was instrumental in the coordination of Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Group and implementation of emergency communication resources for the regional hospital network, in the event of natural disasters. He received the Jack Hobbs Amateur Radio Award from the Emergency Management Association of Georgia. He was a Un- Member of the URC in Fremont and a member of SBARA.



Rick will be missed—He was the First Ham I met when I settled in Fremont in 1978, Bill WB9YVM

Fremont Repeaters & Net Information

*Are you looking for your favorite Repeater?
Here is information you can use!*

WA6PWW— 147.015 +	600Khz, PL 123.0
600Khz, PL 103.5	K6AIR—441.525 +5Mhz,
WA6PWW—223.900—	PL 123.0
500Khz, PL 107.2	ARES Net Meeting—
WA6PWW—442.600	Tuesday Evenings @
+5Mhz, PL107.2	7:30pm on
K6AIR—146.940—	147.015+600Khz, PL
	103.5

Time to dust off those Keys....

The Slow CW net is taking place
Every Thursday and Sunday night at 7:30 pm on 144.230MHz.

The net has now its own e-mail address. Please contact us here:
"SF Bay CW Enthusiasts" <sf-bay-cw-enthusiasts at googlegroups.com>

—... —

Bernhard AE6YN

SBARA Meeting Location Second Friday of the Month

**Our meeting location is at:
Hurricane Electric.
The address in Fremont is:
760 Mission Court — Come to the meeting.
Bring your HF transceiver, antenna or HT !
Talk-In 147.015Mhz. +600
Mingle with your fellow SBARA members!**

SBARA - Groundplane

The Groundplane is published monthly by the South Bay Amateur Radio Association. Articles and letters are always welcome. The normal deadline for material is the 20th day of each month for the next month's news-letter. Articles can be sent by email to hamradio at Comcast dot net or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.



Upcoming SBARA Events

SBARA Action Packed Meeting is April 10th.! Fantastic Raffle Prizes—So Come to the Meeting for the Fellowship!

[Amateur Exams](#)

ARRL VEC— April 14th @ 6:30 pm at Hurricane Electric — 48233 Warm Springs Blvd. Fremont. **Contact: Greg** at wy6pradio@gmail.com \$15 fee. Walk-ins allowed.

Additional information is described at the SBARA's Website, www.sbara.org

Select License Exams from the Navigation URL.

South Bay Amateur Radio Association — SBARA

The Ground Plane — KU6S

<http://www.sbara.org>

P.O. Box 8401

Fremont, Ca.

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